

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled, and claims 7-14 have been added. Thus, claims 7-14 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Initially, pursuant to item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, certified copies of the Japanese priority applications 2003-037858 and 2003-196463, are submitted herewith, together with a formal Claim of Priority. Acknowledgment of the receipt of these certified copies in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Nishihara (U.S. 2003/0071962) in view of Carlon (U.S. 6,860,587). This rejection is respectfully traversed in part and, in any event, is believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-6. Furthermore, this rejection is believed clearly inapplicable to the new claims 7-14, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the drawing figures, new independent claim 7 sets forth rimless eyeglasses comprising: a bridge 2 having two opposite end portions; two lenses 1 respectively having inner edge portions and outer edge portions, the lenses 1 being coupled together by the bridge 2 such that the inner edge portions of the lenses 1 are connected to the two opposite end portions of the bridge 2, respectively; two joint pieces 3 fixed to the outer edge portions of the lenses 1, respectively; two temples 4 respectively having connection ends and free ends, the connection ends of the two temples 4 being respectively coupled to the two joint pieces 3 by hinges; wherein each of the two lenses 1 has an inner through hole 6 and an inner notch 9

formed on the inner edge portion thereof; wherein each of the two lenses 1 has an outer through hole 6 and an outer notch 9 formed on the outer edge portion thereof; wherein flanged sleeves 7 are respectively press-fit in the inner through holes 6 and the outer through holes 6 of the lenses 1; wherein the bridge 2 comprises a crossbar 10 having two opposite end portions, two pin-like extensions 8 integrally provided at the two opposite end portions of the crossbar 10, two press-fitting extensions 11 integrally provided at the two opposite end portions of the crossbar 10, and two leg extensions 12 integrally provided at the two opposite end portions of the crossbar 10; wherein the two pin-like extensions 8 of the bridge 2 respectively have saw-tooth indentations on outer surfaces thereof and are respectively inserted in the flanged sleeves 7 that are press-fit in the inner through holes 6 of the lenses 1; wherein the two press-fitting extensions 11 of the bridge 2 are respectively inserted in the inner notches 9 of the two lenses 1; wherein the two leg extensions 12 of the bridge 2 respectively have hooks 13 at ends thereof arranged to receive nose pads 5; wherein the two joint pieces 3 respectively have inner and outer end portions, and pin-like extensions 8 and press-fitting extensions 11 integrally provided at the inner end portions of the two joint pieces 3; wherein the pin-like extensions 8 of the two joint pieces 3 respectively have saw-tooth indentations on outer surfaces thereof and are respectively inserted in the flanged sleeves 7 that are press-fit in the outer through holes 6 of the lenses 1; wherein the press-fitting extensions 11 of the two joint pieces 3 are respectively inserted in the outer notches 9 of the two lenses 1; wherein the two joint pieces 3 respectively have ring-shaped portions 16 at the outer end portions thereof; and wherein resin circular disc pivot portions 17 are respectively mounted to the connection ends of the two temples 4, and the resin circular disc pivot portions 17 are respectively rotatably fitted in the ring-shaped portions 16 at the outer end portions of the two joint pieces 3 so as to form the hinges.

In contrast to the present invention of claim 7, the Nishihara patent, although disclosing two lenses 14, a bridge 10, two joint pieces 11 and two temples 12 hinged to the joint pieces 11, discloses the utilization of standard pin-type hinges 13 for connecting the temples 12 with the joint pieces 11. The present invention, on the other hand, provides ring-shaped portions 16 at the outer end portions of the two joint pieces 3, and also provides circular disc pivot portions 17

made of resin and respectively mounted to the connection ends of the two temples 4, wherein the resin circular disc pivot portions 17 are rotatably fitted in the ring-shaped portions 16 of the joint pieces 3 so as to form the hinges according to the present invention. This structure of the present invention is clearly not disclosed or in any way suggested in the Nishihara reference.

The Examiner cited the Carlon patent for disclosing "leg extensions ending with hooks for fixedly holding nose pads." However, the Carlon patent provides no teaching or suggestion that would have obviated the above-discussed shortcomings of the Nishihara reference.

Accordingly, because of the above clear distinctions between the present invention of claim 7 and the prior art of record, it is believed apparent that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all of the features required by claim 7. As such, it is respectfully submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would clearly not have been motivated to modify the Nishihara reference or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7, as well as claims 8-14 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the dependent claims which set forth additional features of the present invention and further define the invention over the prior art. For example, claim 8 further specifies that each of the temples 4 has two arm extensions 18 formed at the connection end thereof (see Figs. 6(a)-6(d)); and that each of the resin circular disc pivot portions 17 is sandwiched between the two arm extensions 18 of one of the temples 4, so as to mount the resin circular disc pivot portions 17 to the connection ends of the temples 4, respectively.


Claim 9 specifies that the press-fitting extensions 11 are U-shaped, and claim 10 further requires that the U-shaped press-fitting extensions of the joint pieces 3 respectively contact outer edge portions of the lenses 1 at two locations so as to prevent rotation of the joint pieces 3 relative to the lenses 1 (e.g. see Fig. 16(c)). Claims 11-13 specify that the joint pieces 3, as well as the crossbar 10 of the bridge 2, are coated with a resin material 27 (see Figs. 17(a) - 18). Claim 14 requires that each of the joint portions 3 and the bridge 2 is formed of sheet metal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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